



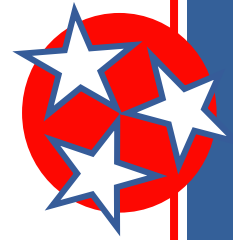
# **An Overview of the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program**

**Presented to the TASFA Conference**

**April 17, 2004**



# An Overview of the Lottery Development Process in Tennessee



- Background of the Education Lottery Taskforce
- Deliberations of the Lottery Taskforce
- Initial Taskforce Recommendation
- Final Taskforce Recommendation
- House Bill 787



# The Tennessee HOPE Scholarship Program



- Base HOPE Award (3.0 or 19 ACT)
- General Assembly Merit Scholarship (3.75 and 29 ACT)
- Need-based Awards (3.0 or 19 ACT and AGI below \$36,000)
- ACCESS Grant (2.75 and 18 ACT)
- Wilder-Naifeh Grant (Admission)

All students who graduate from a public, private, or home-school program may qualify for the award if they meet residency requirements



# The Tennessee HOPE Scholarship Program



- Base HOPE Award (\$3000)
- General Assembly Merit Scholarship (\$4000)
- VISION Awards (\$4000)
- ACCESS Grant (\$2000)
- Wilder-Naifeh Grant (\$1250)

Students must maintain a 2.75 in their freshman year and a 3.0 each subsequent year to retain the awards.



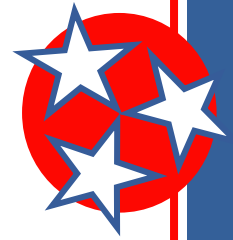
## Application Process



- The FASFA, or renewal FAFSA shall be the means by which eligible students apply for awards. The FASFA must be submitted by mail or electronically as directed in the FASFA instructions.
- Regardless of the student's adjusted gross income, he or she is required to complete the FAFSA for each academic year in order to apply for and receive a TELS award.
- Students whose FASFA is filed with and processed on/or before May 1 will be given priority in determining awards for the subsequent academic year. Applications received processed after May 1 will be considered in the order that they are received by TSAC and processed to the extent that funds are available after funding students meeting the priority deadline.



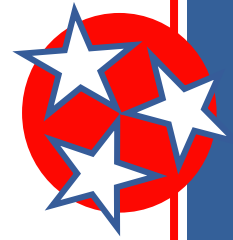
# RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS



- Both public and private institutions will apply uniform rules (TBR residency policies) in determining whether students shall be classified "in-state" or "out-of-state" for scholarship, tuition/fees, and admission purposes.
- Students wishing to declare their residency in TN must have lived in the state for at least one year prior to scholarship application. The application priority date is defined as May 1.
- Students must have graduated from an eligible high school, or home-school, located in Tennessee.



# ENROLLMENT



- Recipients of any of the various awards in the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship program may enroll as a full-time or part-time student.
- Students may not change full-time enrollment status during the course of the semester.
- For current freshman only (class of 2003), participants must complete 24 credit hours within one academic year, which shall be classified for scholarship purposes as Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.
- In order to retain the award, students must remain continuously enrolled in an eligible post-secondary institution. Such enrollment does not require, but may include, summer semester enrollment.



# AWARD AMOUNTS



- In the event that net lottery proceeds are insufficient to fully fund the program, TSAC shall reduce the awards pro-rata.
- Students are encouraged to maximize financial aid opportunities available through federal, state, local, institutional, and private sources of aid.
- A student's scholarship shall not be reduced if they are receiving aid from sources other than HOPE that are applied to educational expenses as long as the student's total aid does not exceed the "total cost of attendance" budget.
- Students enrolled in six, seven or eight hours will receive half of the award of full-time students. Students enrolled in nine, ten or eleven hours will receive three quarters of the award of a full-time student





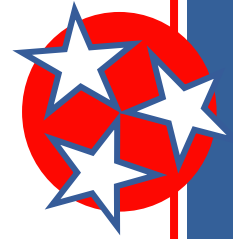
# FIRST YEAR ELIGIBILITY



- The receipt of a HOPE scholarship is contingent upon admission to an eligible postsecondary institution.
- Academically qualifying for the HOPE scholarship does not guarantee admission to an eligible postsecondary institution.
- Scholarship recipients may be denied institutional admission if they do not meet institutional admissions standards.
- Students must meet all campus application deadlines and criteria for admission prior to the receipt of any form of the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship.



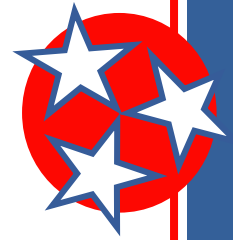
# FIRST YEAR ELIGIBILITY



- To be eligible for participation in the program, a student, who graduated from an eligible high school after January 1, 2004 shall:
  - Apply for the scholarship during their senior year of high school and receive the scholarship within six months of high school graduation, or in the Fall semester immediately following the date of high school graduation
  - Achieve a final overall un-weighted high school grade point average of at least: 3.0 for the HOPE base award and VISION award supplement; 2.75 grade point average for the ACCESS awards; 3.75 grade point average for the GAMS award
  - Achieve a final un-weighted grade point average in the college core curriculum of at least: 3.0 for the HOPE base award and VISION award supplement; 2.75 grade point average for the ACCESS award; and, 3.75 grade point average for the GAMS award. Such grade point averages shall be calculated using all college core courses taken by the student



# FIRST YEAR ELIGIBILITY



- Students who do not meet the GPA criteria may qualify for the base HOPE award if they achieved a score of 19 on the ACT or 890 on the SAT.
- Students receiving the ACCESS or GAMS awards must meet both GPA and ACT/SAT criteria to receive the scholarship.
  - ACCESS awards (18 ACT score or a combined SAT score of at least 860 on any single test date)
  - GAMS awards (29 ACT score or a combined SAT score of at least 1280 on any single test date)
- Students receiving the need-based elements of the program shall:
  - Meet the all of the merit criteria above.
  - All students, or parents if the student is unemancipated, must have an adjusted gross income below \$36,000. The AGI is calculated according to the procedures identified on the FAFSA.



# FIRST YEAR ELIGIBILITY



- Home school and GED students are eligible if they:
  - Attain a composite ACT score of at least 23 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 1060 on any single SAT test date, if such students completed high school in a Tennessee home school program or graduated from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school;
  - Students who do not meet these criteria may qualify for the awards if they pass the GED test with an average score of at least 525 and attain a composite ACT score of at least 19 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 890 on any single SAT test date; and were admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution within six months of completing high school in a Tennessee home school program or graduating from high school.



## SECOND YEAR ELIGIBILITY



- To be eligible for a scholarship in the second year, a student shall:
  - Meet the initial qualifying requirements
  - Maintain satisfactory progress in a course of study in accordance with federal Title IV standards
  - Complete twenty-four credit hours and achieved a 2.75 cumulative grade point average for the total number of semester hours that the student attempted at any postsecondary institution attended during their freshman year (2003-04 only)
  - Apply for/receive a Tennessee HOPE scholarship during their freshman year



## THIRD YEAR ELIGIBILITY



- Students must have been eligible to receive the awards in their first and second years.
- Students must remain continuously enrolled and in satisfactory standing to receive the award during their third year.
- Student must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the conclusion of the term in which he/she attempted at least 48 semester hours.
- Student who failed to earn the minimum GPA are not eligible to regain the award for a third year.



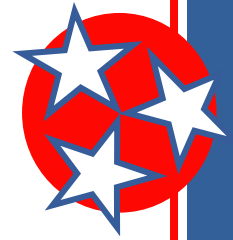
# FOURTH YEAR ELIGIBILITY



- Students must have been eligible to receive the award in their first, second, and third years.
- Such students must remain continuously enrolled and in satisfactory standing.
- Students must also have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the conclusion of the term in which they attempted at least 72 semester hours.
- A student who was a HOPE recipient but failed to earn the requisite cumulative grade point average is not eligible to regain the award for a fourth year.



## FIFTH YEAR ELIGIBILITY

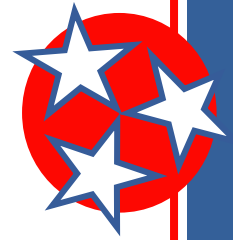


- Students may retain the award through the semester in which 120 credit hours are attempted. Students will not be awarded lottery scholarships for any instructional activity above and beyond this credit limit.
- Exceptions to the 120 credit hour cap will be made for programs that require additional hours for accreditation purposes.
- Regardless of the number of credit hours attempted, students may not receive the awards for more than five (5) years after the date of initial scholarship receipt.





# POSTSECONDARY CUMULATIVE GPA



- The postsecondary cumulative GPA used to determine HOPE eligibility for a renewal or transfer student must be calculated by the institution the student is attending and must be based on all courses attempted after high school graduation.
- Just as credit hours attempted prior to high school graduation do not count toward the 120 semester hour limit, the grades for those classes are not included in the HOPE GPA.
- Credit hours earned by examination are not included in the HOPE cumulative GPA or counted towards the credit hour requirements.



# POSTSECONDARY CUMULATIVE GPA



- All other college credit hours attempted (hours attempted while seeking a degree) at all postsecondary institutions the student attended and their corresponding grades must be included in the HOPE cumulative grade point average, regardless of what hours are accepted by the institution the student is currently attending.
- Courses that were repeated or “forgiven” by the institution must be included in both the HOPE GPA calculation and the calculation of total credit hours.
- Credit hours attempted as part of a diploma or certificate program of study are not considered to be college credit hours and therefore should not be counted, unless those hours are accepted toward a degree.



# POSTSECONDARY CUMULATIVE GPA



- Students who obtain a grade change should notify the financial aid office within 30 days of the grade change. If the grade change makes the student eligible for HOPE, the student can be awarded retroactively in the current award year.
- Credit hours attempted that appear on a the transcript as an “incomplete” should be included when determining 24 semester, 48 semester, 72, and 96 semester hour checkpoints, but not in the calculation of quality points when determining the grade average.



# POSTSECONDARY CUMULATIVE GPA



- The student's HOPE Scholarship should be awarded or denied at the checkpoint, based on the grade average at that point. If the student was denied, but later becomes eligible when the grade for the "incomplete" is eventually reported, the student is eligible to receive HOPE payment retroactively within the award year and to be awarded until the next checkpoint.
- The HOPE grade point average should be calculated by the office that is normally responsible for calculating the institution's grade point average and attempted hours. The institution should calculate the HOPE grade point average to the hundredth decimal, for example 2.99.



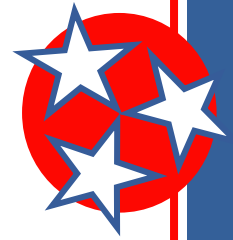
# HOURS LIMITATIONS



- If the student is otherwise eligible to participate in the HOPE Scholarship Program, but is not paid because his or her tuition and fees are already covered by other aid, the credit hours attempted that term still apply to the hours limitation.
- Credit hours for duplicate courses attempted will count toward the credit hour limit.
- Any credit hours attempted or earned before high school graduation (i.e., hours exempted by examination, advanced placement credit hours or joint enrollment hours) do not count against the credit hour limit.
- Courses that are audited are not paid for by HOPE nor counted as hours attempted and are not considered to be college credit.



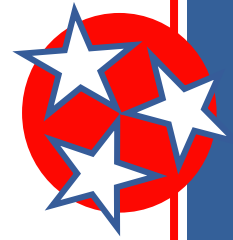
# APPEAL PROCESS



- Institution shall establish an Institutional Review Panel (IRP) for the purposes of hearing appeals from decisions denying or revoking applicants' TELS award. Each eligible postsecondary institution shall establish written procedures for an applicant or recipient to appeal a decision of an eligible postsecondary institution to deny or revoke a TELS award.
- TSAC shall establish a TELS Award Appeals Panel for purpose of hearing appeals from decisions rendered by the Institutional Review Panels or directly from students.



# DATA ELEMENTS – THEC



- **Signature data** – This information will be requested from all institutions and provides a summary of identifying information for each respective student.
- **Student registration data** – This information provides data related to enrollment status, student level, major, and other “traditional” data elements traditionally reported by higher education institutions.
- **Scholarship data** – These data elements are directly tied to the requirements of the lottery and include high school GPA, ACT scores, and a series of financial aid related data elements.





# Questions/Concerns?

